



The Torch

JOOI Gives 'Souper' Effort



JOOI Clubs all over really stepped it up for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. Based on information turned in by April 15, 23 JOOI Clubs participated and they collected a total of \$12,135 in donations and canned goods.

If your JOOI

Club participated but hasn't reported your amounts yet, what are you waiting for? Report back to Souper Bowl of Caring as soon as possible!



The Lambeth Junior Optimists in Ontario received so many donations that they had a hard time finding places to sit at their collection headquarters!

Don't Miss Out on the Big Awards

If you've been eyeing the big JOOI awards for this year, the deadline is fast approaching to turn in the nomination forms!

May 30, 2010, is the deadline to submit nominations for the Member of Excellence, Ruby Blair and Adviser of Excellence awards for this year!

Advisers are nominated by Members of their JOOI Clubs for the Adviser of Excellence honor.

The Member of Excellence and Ruby Blair awards are prestigious honors that JOOI presents to deserving JOOI Members annually. To top it all off, both of these awards come with a \$2,000 college scholarship.

Winners of all three awards will be announced at the 2010 JOOI Convention in Denver, Colorado.

For information about the awards or to download an application, go to www.jooi.org and look on the Awards and Forms page.

Sizing Up JOOI

Just how many Members and Clubs make up JOOI these days? Here is the breakdown as of April 15, 2010:

JOOI Members: 16,816

JOOI Clubs: 619

New Charters for 2009-2010: 32

Congratulations on another strong year!

Running for Office

JOOI Members interested in running for an international office have some paperwork to turn in before the elections at the 2010 JOOI Convention.

Qualified JOOI Members running for JOOI International President or the JOOI Board of Directors must submit the JOOI Application for International Office and Biographical Release by June 1, 2010. Candidates who wish to have their campaign speech translated from English into French must also submit their speech by June 1, 2010.

To read more about the requirements for international office, to find out just what is involved and to see whether you would be interested in running, go to www.jooi.org and look under the Planning Guide section. The May section of the Planning Guide outlines the offices and includes the application and biographical release as well.

Convention: Hear about it from those who've been there! Check out pages 3 and 4.

ZINK HAS SPOTS AND THE SPOTLIGHT IN NEBRASKA



The FYI Junior Optimists show off their costumes for the Zink the Zebra performances.

Since deciding to work on Zink the Zebra last fall, the FYI Junior Optimist Club of Fairbury, Nebraska, has jumped into the project, spots, stripes and all!

Zink the Zebra is a program based on a book by Kelly Weil, a young girl who lost her battle with childhood cancer but not before becoming a young author. The book is about a zebra who has spots instead of stripes, and the story aims to teach a message of being “special and different” to everyone who hears it.

For JOOI Members in the FYI Club, starting the program meant building scenery for the play, making costumes, printing programs and then performing wherever they could. Since getting started, the Club has performed for several school groups, a senior center, the FYI Center and the Board of Directors of the Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, and that was just in the first couple of months!

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JOOI Members Earn Silver and Bronze

Congratulations to the following JOOI Members for achieving bronze or silver levels of the PGI program:

Member	Club	Level
Chris Carnes	Soaring Eagles (A1866)	Bronze
Emily Clough	Lambeth Junior Optimists (A5013)	Bronze, Silver
Seth Davis	CMS Helpers (A1945)	Bronze
James Dennis	Soaring Eagles (A1866)	Bronze, Silver
Rainey Elmore	Soaring Eagles (A1866)	Bronze
Julia Howett	Lambeth Junior Optimists (A5013)	Bronze, Silver
Brett Jankura	Lambeth Junior Optimists (A5013)	Bronze, Silver
Makayla Loncaric	CMS Helpers (A1945)	Bronze
Caitlin McPhee	Lambeth Junior Optimists (A5013)	Bronze, Silver
Carlie Moyer	Lambeth Junior Optimists (A5013)	Bronze, Silver
Brittany Reece	Soaring Eagles (A1866)	Bronze

What is PGI?

The Personal Growth & Involvement (PGI) program for JOOI Members is designed to motivate JOOI Members to participate within their Clubs and learn about the various aspects of JOOI. There are three PGI levels at each stage of JOOI involvement – bronze, silver and gold. The JOOI Member should use the JOOI PGI Tracking Form to document completion of each PGI level with his or her adviser and then submit the form to JOOI upon completion for their certificate.

For more information about the program, check out the November section of the JOOI Planning Guide or visit the awards and forms page of the website.

Fun Must-Haves for Convention

JOOI Members heading to the Denver Convention this summer will receive a JOOI Survival Kit full of snacks, gum and other goodies to help get them through a very busy and fun week!

The adult Optimist Clubs have been asked to lend their assistance in filling up these kits. JOOI Clubs are more than welcome to help as well if they want to get the JOOI Convention off to a good start or if they have a handy contact who would be willing to help. Any items donated should be in quantities of 150, and monetary contributions will be put to good use as well.

For more information about the JOOI Survival Kit, visit the JOOI Convention section of www.jooi.org.

JOOI Districts: Becoming Official

If the JOOI Clubs in your area are trying to form an official District, here are the steps – and the benefits – to remember.

When forming a JOOI District, four JOOI Clubs must attend a conference, and officers need to be elected at that conference. After the officers are elected, the newly formed JOOI District should submit the JOOI District Conference Form along with the Conference Agenda to the JOOI Department at Optimist International.

The adult Optimist District will then receive a rebate of \$1 per active JOOI Member (up to 50 Members per Club) in the month the JOOI Conference took place.

For more information or to download that form, go to www.jooi.org and look for the “JOOI Districts” section.

Hear From the Experts

Members of the JOOI Board of Directors would like to let all JOOI Members know why they love Convention. Read on to see why they attend the big summer event year after year!

Have you ever attended a JOOI Convention? Since I became a Member, I have gone to three JOOI Conventions, and believe me, I'll continue to attend this amazing event! Every year this is the best part of my summer! I meet a lot of people from all over the world, people with whom I stay in contact for a while. Also, I attend outstanding workshops in which I learn so much about all aspects of JOOI! I also have the chance to learn more about myself and to learn other languages! I will never forget when I helped American and Caribbean people learn French and then we all danced together to the rhythm of a French song! It was one of the best moments of the Convention! Also, we always get some time to swim in the pool with everyone. Well, I have so many memories about the annual JOOI Convention, and it's always at this part of the year that I understand why Octagon Clubs mean so much to me! If you have never attended a JOOI Convention, don't miss your chance to attend this year's JOOI Convention. As President of JOOI, I promise you that I'll do everything I can to make this Convention a motivation for all Members to continue serving kids in their community!

Marie-Pier Tremblay
President

You have never been to an International JOOI Convention? Well, this is the year to go! The Convention is in Denver, Colorado, this year and it's sure to be a blast! I look forward to the International Convention every year – it is the highlight of my summer! There is a lot to do, like making new friends from all over the world, talking with others about what your JOOI Club's been up to, but most of all having fun! Another great part about Convention is the workshops. You can learn to speak some French and Spanish, get new fundraising ideas and lots of other good information about the JOOI Program. Of course there is always time to swim in the pool and hang out with your new friends! As part of your International JOOI Board this year, I will be working my hardest to be sure that you will all have a good time and make memories that will hopefully last forever. We have awesome workshops and a great service project waiting for you! So if you've never been to a Convention, I can't wait to see you there.

Caitlyn Miller
Director

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2010 Denver Agenda

Day 1 – Monday, July 5 (casual dress or “Denver” dress all day)

10 a.m.-4 p.m.	JOOI Registration
3-3:30 p.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
4-6 p.m.	Bowling Party (two blocks away at Lucky Strike Lanes)
6:15-7 p.m.	Welcome Session
7-8 p.m.	JOOI Dinner
8-10 p.m.	JOOI Opening Session
10-11 p.m.	Talent Show Screening

Day 2 – Tuesday, July 6 (casual dress or “Snowy Beach” dress all day)

8:30-9 a.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-10:15 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
10:30-11:45 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
Noon-1 p.m.	JOOI Lunch
1-3 p.m.	Service Project
3-4 p.m.	Mystery Forum
4-6 p.m.	Pool Party & Dinner
6-6:45 p.m.	Meet and Greet the Candidates (mingling)
7-9 p.m.	JOOI Business Session (voting)
9-11 p.m.	Talent Show/Group Dance

Day 3 – Wednesday, July 7 (casual dress or “Pajama” dress all day until the President's Banquet)

9-10:15 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
10:30-11:45 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
Noon-12:45 p.m.	JOOI Lunch
12:45-1:30 p.m.	Candidate Speeches (same room as lunch)
1:30-2:30 p.m.	JOOI Meet the Candidates Forum
2:45-3:30 p.m.	Elections
3:30-6 p.m.	Free Time
6-7:30 p.m.	President's Banquet (Optimist International Board attends)
7:30-9 p.m.	JOOI Closing Business Session
9-9:30 p.m.	New Officer Meeting
9-9:30 p.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-11 p.m.	President's Dance
11 p.m.-Midnight	Goodbyes (same room as dance)
Midnight	Curfew

* Some Clubs choose to come in a day or two early to tour the city.

** Breakfast is on your own for all days of the JOOI Convention.

There are several breakfast options at the Sheraton Denver Downtown in addition to dozens of restaurants, coffee shops and cafés within blocks of the hotel.

Buy a JOOI Convention Pin and support the JOOI Legacy Fund! See page 5 for details.

Lend a Hand for Summer Scholars

What would the JOOI Convention be without a cool service project that everyone can work on together?

This year, JOOI Members will be focusing on young students in the Summer Scholars program in the Denver area. Summer Scholars pairs up with Denver Public Elementary Schools and operates three different programs for students and their families – a summer literacy and recreation program, Scholars After School and a family literacy program.

JOOI will be making sure these young scholars have everything they need for the program. JOOI Members will be putting together backpacks full of school supplies as well as special school-site recreation kits for the program.

Although JOOI Members attending Convention will do the hands-on work, JOOI Clubs all over can pitch in to help! The cost of a backpack and school supplies for one student is \$25. The cost of a school-site recreation kit is \$250. The JOOI Board's goal is to provide 150 complete backpacks and at least 20 site kits.

JOOI welcomes any assistance, and JOOI Clubs that support the Convention service project will have their name published in a future issue of *The Torch*!

Please make checks payable to Optimist International and in the memo section please write JOOI Service Project. Please send all donations by June 1, 2010, to Optimist International, Attn: JOOI Department, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. For information call (800) 500-8130 or e-mail youthclubs@optimist.org.

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The JOOI Convention. How do I even start to explain how much impact it has had in my life? I've attended the Convention twice, and I'm going for my third. It was definitely the best part of my summer. It was amazing getting to know so many people from different parts of the world, learning about what it's like where they live and how different and similar we are at the same time. We get time to bond with our new friends, and meet even more. Until this very day, I have become close to and kept in touch with friends I met the first year I attended the Convention; I probably will for the rest of my life. Every single year I've met new people as well as seen "old" friends. And that is only half of it. We get to learn so much about the Club. The workshops the Convention offers really guided me through my years involved in the Club. I also got experience with talking in front of crowds, and I got to practice my French and teach Spanish. Overall, it's just an unforgettable experience that you should take advantage of and learn from. I promise you won't regret it!

Lety Buil Macarty

Director

The International Convention last year was the highlight of my summer! I had so much fun and met so many people from all over the world. I made lasting friendships and I learned so much about optimism and what it means to be an Optimist Club Member. It's one thing to attend all of your Club meetings at your school and to serve as a District officer, but it's so amazing to go to the International Convention. I never realized how big this organization really is. It made me realize that I'm not the only one who is devoted to service and that it's not just an "Ohio thing." I ran for International Office so that I could help the organization that fosters the spirit of volunteerism in young leaders all over the world. Orlando was a blast last year, but this year's Convention, to be held in Denver, Colorado, will be fantastic. Denver is a beautiful city and we have a lot of cool activities and workshops planned for you to participate in. I'm so excited for the service project, which is one like we've never done before. I can't wait to see my old friends from last year, and most of all I look forward to sharing my optimism with those I've never met before: new friends! Hope to see you there!

Kayleigh White

Director

2010 JOOI Convention

A+ Airport Shuttle Service

Exclusive Shuttle Service for Optimist International to and from Denver International Airport and the Sheraton Denver Downtown

A+ Airport Shuttle meets every scheduled arriving and departing flight.

To make arrangements:

Online at www.303shuttle.com or

Call (303) 710-6367

Discount Code: Optimist

Airline reservations must be predetermined before making shuttle arrangements by phone or online.

Shuttle service \$17.00 one way, Round/Trip \$30.00
Towncar \$65.00 one way, Roundtrip \$125.00 -- Up to 3 People
SUV -- \$85.00 one way, Roundtrip \$160.00 -- up to 5 people

Gratuuity not Included

Advance Reservations Recommended

Interested in using the Shuttle service for another function - District Dinner, sight-seeing, etc. A+ Shuttle service will be happy to assist you with your transportation needs for any size group to any destination in Colorado.

- Direct Route to host hotel -- Sheraton Denver Downtown - other shuttles stop several times along the way
- Easiest and Most Cost Effective way to get to the hotel
- A portion of the proceeds benefit Optimist International

Upon arrival, proceed to the main terminal baggage claim (LEVEL 5). Go to the baggage claim carousel for your Airline and get your luggage. Once you have your luggage, call (303) 710-6367 then proceed to Door # 505 Island #3 West Terminal by United Airlines to East Terminal by Frontier Airline. Shuttle driver will be waiting for you.

Make a \$25 contribution to the “JOOI Legacy Fund” and you will receive this specially designed JOOI Convention Pin!!!



Don't miss this opportunity to support JOOI!

All proceeds will benefit the JOOI Legacy Fund. Please make checks payable to “Optimist International Foundation” and write “JOOI Legacy Fund” in the memo section or you may pay with credit card as indicated.

The pin(s) can either be mailed to you or placed in your Convention Packet, which you will receive at registration in Denver, Colorado. Contact any International JOOI Board Member, International JOOI Committee Member or JOOI Staff with questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Number of pins: _____

Total Amount: _____ Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please mail payments to: Optimist International
Attn: JOOI Department
4494 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Or, fax this form to 314-735-4118 (credit card payments only).

Please indicate whether you would like your pin mailed to you or put in your Convention Packet.

Please mail pin(s) to me at the address indicated.

I will pick up the pin(s) at the Optimist International Convention in Denver.

You may also call 800.500.8130 ext. 218 and place an order by phone.
Thank you for your support!